

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

29 MARCH 2017

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OPERATIONAL AND PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

SHARED REGULATORY SERVICES - REVIEW OF JOINT WORKING AGREEMENT

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To recommend changes to the Joint Working Agreement between the partner councils for the provision of Regulatory Services
- 1.2 To seek approval to amend the regionalised service as outlined in this report.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 This report relates to the following priorities in the Corporate Plan 2013-2017:
Smarter Use of Our Resources

3. Background

- 3.1 In April 2015, Bridgend County Borough Council, the City Council of Cardiff, and the Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council signed a joint working agreement for the provision of regulatory services across the three Council areas. The document created the Shared Regulatory Service (SRS) and the Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee.
- 3.2 At the time of creating the Joint Working Agreement, some of its provisions were conceptual in nature and over the last 18 months, it is evident that some aspects of the agreement require amending to allow the more effective operation and management of the service.
- 3.3 Any changes to the Joint Working Agreement are subject to Clause 26 of the Agreement which states:

"This Agreement cannot be varied without the approval and prior written consent of all Participants. Where the Participants agree to make changes to this Agreement, a Deed of Variation shall be entered into between the Participants and appended to this Agreement

- 3.4 Amendments to the Joint Working Agreement will improve the functioning and governance of the SRS. Such changes require ratification by each Council

4. Current Situation

- 4.1 The first eighteen months of the SRS has been dominated by the move toward, and development of, the new Operating Model agreed by the three Councils in Autumn 2014 and formally initiated in April 2015. Creating a shared service has involved significant change. Many of the changes are provided for within the Joint Working Agreement, and those changes have been implemented successfully. In December 2015, an audit of the shared service concluded that that the effectiveness of the internal control environment was sound and substantial assurance can be placed upon the management of risks.
- 4.2 However, there are aspects of the Joint Working Agreement that require updating and amending. Some of the changes proposed in this report are administrative in nature, while others advocate a change in the current operating practices. These changes have been considered by the officer Management Board for the Shared Service, all three Section 151 officers, and agreed as appropriate by the Joint Committee. The proposed changes are set out in the Deed of Variation found in Appendix A.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

- 5.1 The proposals contained within this report require Executive and Council decision.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 An EIA was produced when the SRS was originally created and has been updated further as the project progressed.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report. However, if the revised paragraph 11.9.2.A on page 22 is enacted, this could commit the Council to additional costs of around £22,500. This would be above the agreed budget and would have to be met from the directorate budget where available.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1 That Council approves the proposed changes to the Joint Working Agreement between the partner councils for the provision of Regulatory Services because amendments to the Joint Working Agreement will improve the functioning and governance of the Shared Regulatory service. Such changes require ratification by each Council.
- 8.2 That the Senior Responsible Officer with responsibility for the Shared Regulatory Service be authorised to approve administrative changes to the Joint Working Agreement as long as there is no extension of delegations to the Shared Service or additional financial implications.

P. A. JOLLEY
CORPORATE DIRECTOR LEGAL AND OPERATIONAL SERVICES

March 2017

Contact Officer: Andrew Jolley, Corporate Director, Bridgend County Borough Council

Telephone: (01656) 643227

E-mail: Andrew.jolley@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address: Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street,
Bridgend, CF31 4WB

Background Documents

The Shared Regulatory Services Business Plans 2015/16 and 2016/17
The Joint Working Agreement executed on 10th April 2015